

“Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:1-13

Key Verse: 6:8

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Isaiah Ch6 was the time when the King Uzziah died. What do you know about him? The King Uzziah reigned for 52 long years. (787~735BC) When he sought the Lord, God gave him success. Judah enjoyed peace and prosperity. However, when he became powerful, he became proud and his pride led to his downfall. He presumed to act as a priest, and he was struck with leprosy. He lived as a leper for the rest of his reign for around 10 years.

When we read Isaiah ch1-5, we can understand why Isaiah said “I am a man of unclean lips.” During the time of peace and prosperity, the reign of the king Uzziah, Judah began to degenerate. They worshipped idols (Isa 2:6-8) The elders and leaders were not shepherds; instead they used their suffering people for material gain. The women of Judah became haughty. They did not fear God, or pray for their men. Instead, they enticed men with their charms, stole their hearts from God and used them to satisfy their vanity. (3:14-16) Young men, who should have had vision and hope for their future, were full of despair. They spent their time in drinking parties. (Isa 5:11-12)

To Isaiah’s eyes, Judah was become like Sodom and Gomorrah, which God destroyed by fire for their godless immorality. He was full of despair and complaining in his heart. In such time, Isaiah went to the temple and there he saw the great vision. Look at verses 2,3. "Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.'" Isaiah thought that the whole earth was full of despair and immoral men and women. However, the angels declared, “the whole earth is full of his glory.”

When you look at the world, what do you see? Today is not much different from the time of Isaiah. We see tragedies, sorrow of all kinds, injustice, wars, lust, and addictions of all kinds of pleasures. It seems like the earth is full of sins. Then, how is the whole earth full of God’s glory?

When we see from God’s point of view, the earth is full of his glory through his presence and work all around us and all over the world. For example, we have seen the glory of God throughout GLEF 2022. I have seen the glory of God which filled NJ Center and Bonn center. Right after GLEF2021 last year, Dr. Paul Chung proposed to study the book of Hebrew for GLEF 2022. At that time, I never studied the whole book of Hebrew. Though I did not know much about the book except the famous chapter 11, Dr. Paul was full of confidence and conviction that NG should study Hebrews, then the word of God will empower them and change them. He had already completed his bible study materials and started the Bible study with NG mothers of prayer.

Here, today I can testify that his vision come true. It is not only because God has raised powerful messengers, testimony sharers, and Group Bible Study leaders from NG, but also because the Holy Spirit has worked among us through the word of God. One repented of his ignorant and habitual heart, renewing his faith in Jesus' great salvation from his sin. He decided to give the most careful attention to the word of God. Another one repented of his lustful desires and boldly testified that Jesus is his high priest who saves him completely. Another one proclaimed that Jesus is the anchor for his soul though he has been going through troubles in the world. Other decided to participate in campus 1:1 Bible Study mission, especially to pioneer Medical students in Bonn university together with his father. Other decided not to shrink back, but to live the life of mission to establish 12 Base camps for M-Mission.

Through FS of 5 Books of Moses, 9 Steps Bible Study, IBS Lectures on Ephesians, Biblical Preaching, Psalms, Church History, and God's redemptive History on Maps, the words of God have been alive and active among us. Throughout GLEF 2022, we have seen the glory of God, the beautiful work of salvation, the wonderful work of the holy spirit that lead sinners to repentance and empower them to devote their lives for God's redemptive work. Amen.

When Isaiah was overwhelmed by the Holy presence of the Lord, he could not but repent of his sins. Just like the word of God divided our hearts, minds and thoughts, expose all our sinful thought and leads us to repentance, the glory of God exposed his sins before God and led him to repentance. Look at verse 5. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." Though Isaiah said "I am a man of unclean lips," he was a man of unclean heart with doubts, fears, despairs and complains. It was because whenever he opened his mouth, all these ungodly things came from his heart.

When he confessed his sins, God healed his unclean lips and forgave all his sins by touching his lips with a live coal from the altar. God took away the sin and guilt from his mouth. God also took away all our sins by the blood of Jesus. We have heard the wonderful testimonies that testifies the power of the blood of Jesus; Sarah Schweitzer, Sh. Angela, Grace Kim, Lydia Point, Sera Lee, Peter J. Chang, and Maria Chang. All they praised that the blood of Jesus cleans all their sins and even their consciences when they accept Jesus' sacrifice for their sins. At the touch of the live coal - at the touch of the blood of Jesus, they have been set free from sin; they have been redeemed. By the power of the blood of Jesus, we sinners can come into God's presence with confidence. Now, we can serve the living God, in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Then, let us read verse 8. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Until then, Isaiah was in his own world, doing his own little things. He was interested and concerned with his business, his family, his school, his job and his work only.

However, after he experienced the grace and mercy of God, his heart had been changed. He was interested and concerned with the things of God, and the heart of God. Then, he began to hear the voice of the Lord. "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us

See how Isaiah respond to God' calling - "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Look at verse 8b. "And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" When Isaiah heard God's calling, he responded immediately, saying, "Here am I. Send me!" How could Isaiah respond to God's high calling immediately? Isaiah came to know God's broken heart for his people, God's desire to send someone to his people to share the message of the good news with them, and God's compassion to forgive, to restore, and to bless them. His heart was moved by God's love for him and his people. Then, he really wanted to participated in God's business. So, he raised up his hand, saying "Here ma I. Send me!"

One young man heard God's cry "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" He raised up his hand, saying "Here I am. Send me!" Leaving his family members behind in Ukraine, he went to Turkey to preach the gospel of Jesus. God has blessed his faith to lay the foundation for M-mission. Now His 2 daughters and 2 sons are growing to be world mission co-workers. Some of us have made decision to participate in campus mission, especially Medical field; others have made decision not to shrink back in comfortable life, but to carry out 1:1 Bible study and disciple-making ministry. Some others have decided to devote their lives to bring spiritual revival in Europe through 1:1 Bible Study. How could they make such decisions of faith? It is because of God's amazing grace of salvation upon them and also because of God's broken heart for the lost who would perish in their sins. To God's grace of salvation and calling, they responded by faith –"Here am I. Send me." Is there anyone hear God's voice "Whom shall I send for Bonn campus students? Who will go for us?" Is there anyone who hears God's voice "Whom shall I send for M-mission?" Is there anyone who hears God's voice "Who shall I send for American campus students?" Who shall I send for 1700 campus students in Europe?" We may respond to God's calling by faith, saying "Here am I. Send me."

Look at verses 9-10. God accepted Isaiah's offer. God commissioned him as a messenger to his people. "Go and tell this people!" Then, to what kind of people was God sending Isaiah? They were very rebellious, stubborn, and sin-sick people. They were spiritually blind and deaf. They would not be welcomed. Rather, they would be rejected, persecuted, misunderstood, and even killed. Then, how long would Isaiah have to go and preach to the people?

Look at verses 11-13. "Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the house are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged, until the Lord has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken." It sounds like the most discouraging mission anyone could go on. Who wants to preach with no result, but rather see ruin, waste and disaster? Do you want to go still?

The message Isaiah had to preach was the message of God's punishment upon his people. It was also the message of God's divine love for them. God loves his people so much that he sent his people into captivity, in order to discipline them and establish them again as a Bible teachers' nation, shepherd nation and a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Divine discipline is sometimes very painful. But after receiving divine discipline, God's people can bear the fruits of righteousness.

Though his stubborn and rebellious people would rejected his message, God was sending his messengers again and again with hope! Look at verse 13. "And though a tenth remains in the

land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.” God finds hope in the stump. Trees are cut down and stumps are left. To human eyes, the stumps are useless. But God finds hope in the stumps which produce new sprouts. God calls them "the holy seed." God's history is never a history of the ignorant majority. Through 5 books of Moses, we have learned that God had carried his work through the remnant, the holy seed. God's work is the ministry of the holy seed. God's work is based on the promise of God through a man who believed in his promise. Our God is the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Number doesn't matter to God for God is the creator who created all things out of nothing. What matters is one man of God, the holy seed. One man of God who accepts God's calling and mission in his heart is like one nation, A kingdom of priests and a holy nation. They are the holy seeds of God.

The vision of GLEF is to raise spiritual leaders who have God's word of promises. Each of us is the holy seed, God's hope for this generation. Through one man of God, God will bring spiritual revival in Europe. Through a man of God's word, God will restore Rutgers Campus to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Through our 1:1 Bible study and disciple making ministry, God will pioneer 17,000 universities in Europe; God will change US into a shepherd nation for the whole world.

Now, we are about to go out/back to our mission fields. Some may experience many rejections or even persecutions. However, we may preach the gospel of Jesus through 1:1 Bible study and disciple making ministry. Even though everyone rejects us, we may not give up nor compromise with sin of the world. Being spiritual leaders means to be remnant of God by holding to Jesus. We may be holy seeds for this nation, this campus, and this generation. God may do the great work of salvation through us in our generation.

We are going gather again for GLEF 2023 - (July/2 ~July10). Now we are going out the world, our mission field, to deliver the message of God. We are going out to the world as a witness of Jesus, a bible teacher, a shepherd, a prayer servant. Through 1:1 Bible Study and disciple making ministry, we may carry out our mission. So, when we are going to gather again, each of us may come not alone, but with 12 disciples of Jesus. Father in heaven! Here are we! Send us to campuses in Bonn, in Europe, in Turkey, and in USA!